for berthing bigger ships.

(ii) Modernisation of equipment for speedy handling of cargo.

(iii) Augmentation of capacity by construction of a new oil jetty.

[*Translation*]

Opening of New Branches of Nationalised Banks in Cuttack District

254. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks in the rural areas of Cuttack district of Orissa;

(b) whether the Government propose to open some new branches in the rural areas of this district;

(c) if so, the names of the places where these branches are proposed to be opened; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) There are 165 branches of Public Sector Banks in the rural areas of Cuttack District of Orissa.

(b) to (d). Under the extant policy of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for opening of branches in rural areas, the list of identified centres with necessary particulars in each District has to be given to the lead bank of that District. The Lead Bank after consolidating the list received from all banks submits it to the District Collector for recommendations and onward transmission to RBI through the concerned State Government. Under the Branch Licensing Policy (1990-95), opening of branches of Public Sector Banks is a continuous process and hence it is not possible to project the number of branches that will be opened in the rural areas of Cuttack District.

Development of National Highways in Gujarat

*255. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals for the development of National Highways submitted by the Gujarat Government to the Union Government during the last three years;

(b) the details of proposals out of them approved by the Union Government and the amount sanctioned therefor;

(c) the reasons for not clearing the remaining proposals;

(d) whether the construction work of any of sanctioned projects is being delayed; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Against the cumulative Annual Programme of Rs. 219.11 crores for National Highways in Gujarat relating to the 3 year period from 1.4.88 to 31.3.91, 164 proposals costing Rs. 127.34 crores were approved by the Ministry keeping in view the availability of funds and overall priorities.

(c) Out of the 12 pending proposals as on 1.4.91, 5 proposals have been taken up for approval during 1991-92. Remaining proposals are under correspondence with the State PWD for clarifications.